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SUBJECT Reflections on Life of James Angleton A

ROBERT SIEGEL: James Jesus Angleton, one of this country's best-known counterintelligence officers, died yesterday of lung cancer at the age of 69. News analyst Daniel Schorr has these memories of Angleton.

J DANIEL SCHORR: The world of Jim Angleton, the legendary counterspy, was what he once called a wilderness of mirrors. It was a world where Soviet defectors were often moles and where high officials might be traitors. Angleton once called Secretary of State Henry Kissinger "objectively, a Soviet agent," because of his detente policies. And he held Dr. Kissinger responsible for his discharge from the CIA.

Britain today is still rocking over the revelation of a campaign by MI5, British counterintelligence, against former Prime Minister Harold Wilson. It was touched off by Angleton's denunciation of Wilson in 1970 as a possible KGB agent.

When Angleton and I would have lunch a dozen years ago, the ground rules were that he would arrive at the restaurant after me and leave before me, and be seated with his back to the wall and a view of the dining room.

In those days, he sought to persuade me that Yuri Nosenko, the KGB defector who reported to the FBI that the Soviets were not involved in President Kennedy's assassination, was a plant. Angleton said he knew that from another Soviet defector whom he trusted. The battle over defectors tore apart the CIA for a decade.

In the end, Director William Colby concluded that Angleton's single-minded concentration on fear of Soviet penetra-

tion had cost the Agency valuable defectors and potential spies, that counterintelligence had become the enemy of intelligence, and he forced Angleton to resign in December 1974.

I asked him then, in our first on-the-record interview, why he had resigned. "Because," he said, "I think the time comes to all men when they can no longer serve their countries."

He was not allowed to fade into oblivion. Although he'd said that to be photographed might be his death sentence, he was called before a televised hearing of the Senate Intelligence Committee investigating CIA scandals in 1975.

He also lived to see himself mocked in a novel by Aaron Latham, "Orchids for Mother," referring to his code name and his flower-raising hobby. But he also lived long enough to feel vindicated by the great espionage scandals of the past three years and the penetration of the American Embassy in Moscow. He'd long ago opposed a new site for the Soviet Embassy in Washington. He was ready, if asked, to testify about the weaknesses of American counterintelligence today.

Angleton, from a Catholic family, was a great friend of Israel and had close ties to Mossad, its intelligence agency. The last time I saw him was leaving a synagogue on Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. He came up behind me, tapped me gently on the shoulder. He was wearing a skullcap. And he said, "Shana Tova" (?), "Happy New Year."

James Jesus Angleton.